



From Joanne Davis, Texas State President 2011-2013

To: Chapter Presidents 2010-2012

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Congratulations, you have completed the first year of your presidency. This is a good time to evaluate the past year and set some goals for this next year. Congratulations for the advances your chapter has made under your leadership. Thank you to those attending the state convention in McAllen and the Southwest Regional in Denver. Attending state and international events helps us see the global scope of the Society. As you prepare for the second year of your biennium, here are a few of my thoughts I would like to share as I embark on this new journey.

The theme for the next biennium is **EXPLORE the Possibilities: Let Our VISION Light the Way**. With this theme in mind, please know I am open to your suggestions on finding new ways to strengthen our commitment and fulfill our purposes. As the leader of your chapter, you have many resources ready to assist you if you have questions. There are many people ready to help you if you experience problems. Your first arm of assistance is your new area coordinator. Please welcome her and use her as a chapter resource. She is the liaison between the state president and your chapter. Also know that the state executive committee members are always available to help you in any way possible. If your question concerns a specific committee, contact the state chairman. All of these contacts are available on the state Web site, www.alphastatetexas.org

As the leader of your chapter, lead your members to use the state Web site. Our state Web site has so many resources and so much information that can help chapters with programs, ceremonies, communication, membership, and on and on. Consider appointing a Web watcher (if you do not have one) who could report on one interesting item that she finds on the site during each chapter meeting. There are some new resources on the Web site following convention. The LDCP Committee (Leadership Development for Chapter Presidents) has prepared two very helpful documents that you will want to use: *Every Question Deserves an Answer* and *These Ideas Really Work*. I believe you will find these very helpful.

Do you have a chapter Web site? If you don't, see if you can find someone who would be interested in being the Webmaster. Diane Moose and Carol McMillan have information on the Web site that makes it quite easy to develop an excellent site. Go to www.alphastatetexas.org > Resources >Reference Materials> Create a Web Site Using Weebly.com and Designing with Style. These two publications make it very simple to build a site that will draw members to it and add to your ability to strengthen chapter communication, a key element in retention of members.

Membership—Look at your membership statistics. Did you grow? Do you have diversity in your membership? Ask your research committee to develop a list of members lost to resignation or non-payment of dues. Develop a plan of action to contact these former members. Invite them to a meeting with a program you feel might be of interest. In looking for possible new members, remember to think about non-traditional teaching positions—private schools, service center educators, health educators, etc. Remember that our chapter meetings are open to non-members except when voting on new members. Invite visitors to your meetings. In considering membership always remember, the Society is for Key Women Educators. Use the new orientation materials available on the state Web site. Go to www.alphastatetexas.org and look at "Pride in the Big Picture."

Technology—You have a Technology Committee member for your area. Think about inviting her to a meeting to present a program on Wiki's, Skype, Go To Meeting, or some other topic your membership would like to learn about. Committees could meet over the internet using some of the technology available—a savings of time and money. (If you ask the committee member to travel very far, you might offer to pay her gas money as there is no state reimbursement for this.) The state technology committee has some exciting plans for this biennium. They will be posting solutions to common technology problems throughout the year on the state Web site. They are very willing to work with those who want to gain technology skill.

Nominations Committee—Remind your nominations committee early in this second year that they should be considering officers for the next chapter biennium. Committees that begin working early are more successful in completing the slate of officers in a timely manner. I would also encourage you to be positive and affirming to your chapter members. Always stress the honor of serving and the benefits of making connections with other members beyond your chapter level.

The 83rd Texas State Convention will be held at the Las Colinas Convention Center in Irving, TX on June 21,23, 2012. It is not too early to begin promoting convention attendance. Statistics prove that chapters who bring good representation to state convention thrive and grow. Workshops are offered for CPE credit, speakers are energizing, and the benefits of meeting educators with whom you can network is priceless. I have a power point showing highlights of Las Colinas that I would be happy to send you, and your area coordinator has the video that was shown at the business meeting in McAllen. Both showcase the wonderful site of Las Colinas!

Please note there is a return sheet at the end of the letter from your new area coordinator. This is to be returned to her by September 15. This return will be worth one point on your PACE application next spring so don't fail to do this. Please forward or print the committee letters to the appropriate committee member or officer as they give tips and suggestions for the year.

Again, I wish for you a very productive and successful year. My number one goal is to help strengthen chapters. To that end, your area coordinator and I are available to assist you with situations that might arise. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in Delta Kappa Gamma,

Joanne

Joanne Davis, President

Texas State Organization 2011-2013